AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Allowed) A sliding component comprising:

a sintered green compact formed from compacted iron-based material powder and copper-based material powder,

wherein said copper-based material powder contains flat powder particles of copper or copper alloy; an average value of maximum projected areas of the flat powder particles is larger than that of maximum projected areas of iron-based material powder particles; and copper is segregated on a surface of said sliding component.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Allowed) The sliding component according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sliding portion having a surface coverage of copper greater than or equal to 60%.

4. (Allowed) The sliding component according to claim 3, wherein the surface coverage of copper is greater than or equal to 90%.

5. (Allowed) The sliding component according to claim 1, wherein said sliding component generates a concentration gradient in which a copper-to-iron ratio thereof decreases from the surface of the sliding component toward an inside thereof while increasing the ratio of iron to copper.

6. (Allowed) The sliding component according to claim 3, wherein said one surface is a sliding surface formed in a cylindrical shape.

7. (Allowed) A method for manufacturing a sliding component, comprising the steps of:

filling an iron-based material powder and a copper-based material powder into a filling portion of a mold;

compacting said iron-based material powder and copper-based material powder so as to form a green compact; and

sintering said green compact,

wherein said copper-based material powder contains flat powder particles of copper or copper alloy; an average value of maximum projected areas of the flat powder particles is larger than that of maximum projected areas of iron-based material powder particles; and said flat powder particles in the filling portion are segregated on a surface of said green compact.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Allowed) he method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 7, wherein the aspect ratio of each flat powder particle is greater than or equal to 10.

10. (Allowed) The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 9, wherein the aspect ratio of each flat powder particle is in a range of 20 to 50.

11. (Allowed) The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 9, further including the step of:

segregating said flat powder particles toward the surface of said sliding component by applying vibration to said iron-based material powder and copper-based material powder filled in the filling portion of the mold.

12. (Allowed) The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 7, wherein a ratio of said flat powder particles to the entire material powders is in a range of 20 to 70 % by weight.

13. (Allowed) The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 9, wherein a ratio of said flat powder particles to the entire material powders is in a range of 20 to 70 % by weight.

14. (Allowed) The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 12, wherein the ratio of said flat powder particles to the entire material powders is in a range of 20 to 40 % by weight.

15. (Allowed) The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 7, wherein the average value of the maximum projected areas of the flat powder particles is at least 3 times as large as that of the maximum projected areas of the iron-based material powder particles.

16. (Allowed) The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 9, wherein the average value of the maximum projected areas of the flat powder particles is at least 3 times as large as that of the maximum projected areas of the iron-based material powder particles.

17. (Allowed) The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 12, wherein the average value of the maximum projected areas of the flat powder particles is at least 3 times as large as that of the maximum projected areas of the iron-based material powder particles.